

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0822

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09798

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, GE, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: FRG BRIEFINGS ON INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) BERLIN 5836; B) BONN 8810

SUMMARY: ON FYI ONLY BASIS, FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND ON
UK AMBASSADOR HENDERSON'S JUNE 2 REMARKS TO FONOFF
STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF (REPORTED REF B) REGARDING
BRIEFING OF ALLIES ON INNER-GERMAN
NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. FRG REP IN BONN GROUP MEETING IN LATE MAY HAD TOLD
ALLIES THAT THERE WAS QUESTION WITHIN FRG AS TO WHETHER
INFORMATION ON FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO
BE PASSED IN BONN GROUP OR, SINCE GAUS WAS INFORMING
ALLIED EMBASSIES IN ESB DIRECTLY, IT WOULD BE MORE
EFFICIENT TO LEAVE MATTER TO GAUS. THE FRG BONN GROUP
REP SAID THAT THIS WAS SEEN BY FRG AS PRACTICAL PROBLEM
AND INDICATED THAT IT PERHAPS BETTER TO LEAVE BRIEFING
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TO GAUS SINCE ALLIES WOULD THUS BE GETTING THE INFORMA-

TION DIRECTLY FROM THE ORIGINAL SOURCE. ALL ALLIED REPS RESPONDED THAT, SINCE RESPONSIBILITY FOR BERLIN POLICY AND QRR, ETC, WAS WITH BONN EMBASSIES ON ALLIED SIDE, AND SINCE INSTITUTIONALIZED SYSTEM HERE HAD WORKED WELL IN PAST, FORMAL FRG BRIEFINGS SHOULD CONTINUE IN BONN GROUP. HOWEVER, ALLIED REPS SAID THEY RECOGNIZED IT UP TO GAUS WHAT HE WISHED TO TELL EMBASSIES IN ESB AND IT WAS INDEED TRUE THAT INFO DIRECTLY FROM SOURCE COULD BE WORTHWHILE ADDITION. WE HAD THOUGHT THIS RESPONSE BY BONN GROUP REPS HAD DISPOSED OF QUESTION, AND US AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS WERE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT UK AMBASSADOR REOPENED IT AT THE MEETING WITH GEHLHOFF.

2. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT WHAT IS INVOLVED IS SOME BUREAUCRATIC MANEUVERING BETWEEN THE CHANCELLERY AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE. ACCORDING TO A FONOFF SOURCE, THE SUGGESTION THAT BRIEFINGS IN THE BONN GROUP BE DROPPED WAS MADE AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHANCELLERY, WHICH HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CONFUSION AND DIFFERING SHADES OF MEANING COULD RESULT FROM PASSING INFORMATION IN TWO PLACES. ELIMINATING THE BONN GROUP AS A FORUM FOR BRIEFINGS, HOWEVER, WOULD ALSO SERVE TO REDUCE EVEN FURTHER THE ROLE OF THE FONOFF IN INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS, AND WE FEEL CERTAIN THAT FONOFF WELCOMED THE REACTION WHICH IT RECEIVED FROM THE ALLIES. WHATEVER INFORMATION GAUS PROVIDES IN EAST BERLIN IS FINE, BUT WE (AND PROBABLY THE FONOFF AS WELL) ARE SATISFIED THAT BRIEFINGS ARE CONTINUING IN THE BONN GROUP AS BEFORE.

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